

Supp

[No. 10]

Supplement to the 25th Annual Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

REPORT
ON THE
LOBSTER INDUSTRY
OF
CANADA
1892

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ON THE

LOBSTER INDUSTRY OF CANADA.

To the Hon. CHARLES H. TUPPER,
Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

SIR,—Although the annual reports of this department for the past two years* contain a large amount of interesting information relative to the lobster fishery; its exhausted condition in several localities, and the best means to preserve it from total extinction; it has been deemed advisable for purposes of reference as well as otherwise to place before you a collection of the several memoranda and reports made from time to time by the officers of your department on this valuable industry; an industry which has increased in value from \$15,275, in 1869, to over \$2,250,000, in 1891. It will be readily admitted that a fishery of such importance deserves protection; the more so, when it is a well-known fact that the drain now put on its capabilities is excessive, and unless efficient and proper legislation is adopted to check it, the fishery is doomed to exhaustion. There can be no doubt but these crustaceans are becoming scarce in a great many localities; the average size of the fish is also gradually but surely growing smaller in many districts.

If these crustaceans have not suffered irretrievable injury in Canada, and if they are not yet beyond recuperation, it is due to the enforcement of judicious close seasons and to regulations fixing a minimum size under which no lobsters must be taken.

It is, however, evident that the productive power of these shell-fish has been over-taxed and that they cannot much longer stand the heavy drain of the past twenty years. It, therefore, becomes a matter of imperative necessity not only to maintain intact the present regulations but to adopt further measures in order to assure the healthy condition of a staple industry upon whose permanency and productiveness thousands of persons in the Maritime Provinces depend for a livelihood.

The lobster belongs to the public not to the packer; the right of fishery in the open sea is also a public appanage, but the Government, as trustee for the public is in duty bound to protect and preserve this right for future as well as for the present generations.

The fecundity of the lobster is wonderful; every female reaching the age of maturity emits from 12,000 to 20,000 eggs every season. It may seem impossible at first sight to exhaust such an abundant supply; but experience has proved the contrary. To arrive at this conclusion, one has only to look at the number of lobsters caught every year in Canadian waters. In 1891, there were 14,285,157 cans packed at say 5 fish to the can—in some localities the average was 6 and 7—equal to 71,425,785 fish; adding thereto 6,312 tons of live or fresh lobsters of an average

NOTE.—See Annual Report for 1890, p. XXXI, 127; Fish Breeding Report, 1890, p. 17; Annual Report, 1891, p. XXVI.

weight of $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs per fish, we have 5,049,600 more, or an aggregate of 76,475,385 lobsters. With such an annual drain, it is to be wondered that this fishery has been able to hold on so long. The value of lobster factories, traps and other plant amounted in 1891 to \$860,000.

Lobsters do not travel long distances. At the approach of winter they seek the deep waters where the temperature is milder and more uniform. With the return of spring they come back to their summer haunts, and as the season advances, gradually get nearer shore. It is therefore evident that continued over-fishing in a particular locality will eventually exhaust the breed without reasonable hopes of its being subsequently replenished by accessions from neighbouring areas.

MEANS OF PROTECTION TO LOBSTERS.

In his report for 1891, Superintendent Nielsen in charge of the Lobster hatchery of Newfoundland recommends the following for the protection and fostering of this industry.

"The only means by which the lobster fishery can be improved and continued in a profitable condition, are by artificial propagation on a large scale by floating incubators; by having a short season; by having a limited distance between each factory and by regulating the construction of all lobster traps, so that the small immature lobsters can escape, when they enter the traps. I am confident that these means will have the effect of conserving and extending this valuable fishery."

A copy of the Newfoundland regulations applicable to the lobster fishery will be found at the end of this report.

LICENSE SYSTEM.

No repressive regulations, however beneficial to the public at large, can be carried out without hurting or displeasing somebody. If the foregoing remarks establish the necessity which exists for the adoption of more efficient measures, the thing cannot better be done than by the adoption of a regular license system, which would bring this fishery under the provisions of the Fisheries Act. This system, which has already proved most beneficial in other branches of the fisheries would give the department better and fuller control; enable it to settle difficulties between parties, and facilitate the detection of illegal fishing and canning in remote parts of the country. Under such a system, the business could be properly regulated, capitalists would invest their funds with greater security, and the value of the industry would thus be enhanced to the public as well as to the individual fisherman.

The fixing of a proper license fee is a somewhat difficult matter to arrange.

Large packers might approve of a high figure for the purpose of crowding out smaller competitors in the business, while the latter would be sure to raise the cry of monopoly.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

WM. SMITH,

Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

APPENDIX A.

FURTHER EVIDENCE OF DECREASE IN SIZE OF LOBSTERS

IN CANADA AS WELL AS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

The continual decrease in size of lobsters is an evident proof of a diminishing supply. Some ten or twelve years ago, it would take only two or three lobsters to fill a can; now it requires six or seven, some even say eight. This decline in size is general, but mostly felt in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

The fishery overseers and packers in Gloucester and Kent counties, as well as on the Northumberland Straits, agree in stating that lobsters are steadily getting scarcer and smaller; that it now takes from six to eight lobsters to fill one pound cans, and it is stated that in some parts of the Baie des Chaleurs, seventy-five per cent of the catch was under the legal size, and that if the legal standard were strictly enforced, no factory could continue to operate.

The same opinion is held by cannerymen at Pictou, N.S., and Mr. J. Forest of Antigonish, who is an extensive packer, stated, after making a tour of the Halifax and Guysboro' counties, that he had seen more lobsters of nine inches than of any other size. Some packers hold that lobsters are of a much larger size on the north-east side of Cape Breton, and that three and a half lobsters are sufficient to fill a can.

QUEBEC.

In his report for 1875, Dr. Lavoie, then in command of the Gulf fishery division, says:—

"The apprehensions entertained in 1872 from the result of previous excessive fishing, were fully realized last season, so far as Baie des Chaleurs is concerned, where barely 9,315 pounds of lobsters were prepared against 216,432 pounds last year."

In his report for 1876, the same officer writes:—

"The ruin of the lobster fishery on the shores of the United States ought to warn and at the same time teach us a lesson which we should take advantage of; that is to regulate, with as little delay as possible, the mode of carrying on this fishery, if we would not suffer the same results as are already experienced at Carleton and Maria, and other places on the shores of Baie des Chaleurs * * *. The fishing grounds of Maria, Carleton and New Richmond will require several years rest before they will become as valuable as formerly."

Again, in his report for 1877, the same officer says:—

"The first establishment began in 1874, and met with such success that there is now great competition among packers who desire to secure the most advantageous localities in Baie des Chaleurs and Gaspé. A fact worthy of notice is that, where canneries were first in operation, the result of their work is already apparent."

"At Carleton, for instance, packing had to be abandoned for want of lobsters, whilst 216,432 pounds were canned at Carleton and Maria in 1874, none were preserved in the former place this year, and the canneries of Maria, Bonaventure and Capelin put up only 35,200 cans."

In his report for 1883, Dr. Wakeham who succeeded Dr. Lavoie, says:—

"The lobster industry shows a falling off of 116,804 pounds. This decrease occurred mainly in the County of Bonaventure, where the lobster catch has already been failing for some years; in fact, there is only one cannery opened in that county now."

In his report for 1887, the same officer writes:—

"While in 1877, while the industry was yet in its infancy, 448,669 pounds of lobsters were put up by eleven canners; forty-five canneries, with a larger number of traps and better appliances, only succeeded in taking 857,098 pounds during the year 1887, and the article of poor quality, as, owing to the small size of the lobsters now generally taken, much of the meat is inferior, being soft and watery."

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Ex-Inspector Duvar, in a tabulated statement shows that, while in 1874 three and a-half lobsters were sufficient to fill a can, ten years later it took five, and now six and seven.

Mr. J. F. Lantz, a packer of Queen's County, P.E.I., is the only one who stated that most of the lobsters caught there measured twelve inches, and that four of them filled a can. This is certainly the best record on the Prince Edward Island coast.

Inspector Hackett reports that owing to the small size of the lobsters, due to continued over-fishing, a strict enforcement of the legal standard last year would have had the effect of closing all the factories.

Again, he says: in 1887, the lobsters were so small and so scarce that several packers had to close their factories early in the season, and not a few of them were driven into bankruptcy.

The deplorable condition of the fishery at that time, caused by over-fishing and the indiscriminate slaughter of lobsters of all sizes, obliged the department to resort to more stringent measures.

This is evidence enough to prove the decline in size in Prince Edward Island.

ENGLAND.

In the report of the commission appointed to enquire into the crab and lobster fisheries in England and Wales (1877), numerous evidences are given of a great falling off in the number and size of the fish as compared with what they were forty, thirty, twenty, or even ten years before—the reason is ascribed to over-fishing, catching immature fish and fishing at improper periods of the year.

The reports of the inspectors of fisheries for England and Wales for the years 1886-87, also speak of an alarming decrease in the size and supply of lobsters in Great Britain and Norway.

UNITED STATES.

In the United States many grounds where large and remunerative fishing used to be carried on are now completely fished out. This decrease has been most marked in such regions as have been fished the longest, and especially in the shallow water areas near the coast, which are easy of access, and which have been subject to increased drains. The greatest decrease has occurred within the last fifteen to twenty years, or since the establishment of numerous factories, and the perfected methods of transporting fresh lobsters to all parts of the country.

Quoting from the reports of the United States Commissioner on Fish and Fisheries, the following facts are elicited.—

"Cape Cod used to be a famous fishing ground; a large trade was started with New York. Each lobster pot could be relied upon to catch from 100 to 200 lobsters every night. Since 1885, a rapid decrease was noticed. In 1880, there were only 8 men engaged in this fishery; and, although they used the most improved appliances, their annual gross earnings did not exceed \$60 each.

The official reports on "The Fisheries and Fishing Industry of the United States" published in 1887, sec. v., vol. 2, page 658 *et seq.* show that several formerly remunerative fishing grounds on the coast of Maine are now completely exhausted.

"On the Coast of Maine, although this fishing is of much more recent date, it has already exhibited alarming signs of decay, while the average size of individuals is generally decreasing. The shore fisheries are completely exhausted, and

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fishermen are compelled to resort to distant grounds. Traps must also be set singly, instead of tray fashion, because the lobsters are more scattered and consequently scarcer. In 1864, lobsters were so abundant at Mussel Ridge, that three men tending from 40 to 50 traps would catch all the lobsters which one smack was able to carry to market by making a trip once a week. In 1879, the same smack had to buy the catch of 15 men in order to obtain full fares, and at times required to visit other localities to complete the load. The same remarks apply to the Booth Bay region. In 1886, lobsters were very abundant about the Islands, and fishing was carried on close inshore; each man making about \$700 during the season. In 1869, the number of fishermen had increased, but the profits were reduced to \$175 per man, and the average size of lobsters was diminished. In the Saco district, the average catch per man is now about one-third what it used to be twenty years ago; and it now takes 80 lobsters to fill a barrel, while 65 were sufficient in 1865.

Extract from "Forest and Stream," Jan. 12th, 1888.

"An investigation of the lobster fisheries of Maine and the effect of the laws thereon, has recently been made by Deputy Labour Commissioner Campbell, of that State. He reports that the lobster fishery is an industry that has grown up in the past thirty years. Said a fisherman: 'When I first went into the business, in 1853, there were but six smacks running lobsters in Maine waters, four of which were from New London, Conn. These smacks averaged about four men each. Five men caught at that time twice the amount of lobsters these five smacks could carry.' From this small industry in 1850 it has grown to such vast proportions that it now employs nearly 2,000 boats, 40 sail of vessels, and gives employment to over 2,000 fishermen, and the transportation smacks in Maine waters employ more than 100 men in freighting or transporting lobsters caught in Maine waters. This industry distributes in various ways among the fishermen of Maine a gross sum of more than \$600,000 annually. The business of lobster catching in general requires two men to a boat, with 200 traps, at a cost of about \$300 for the entire outfit. The greater part of the fishing is carried on in small boats within a short distance of the fishermen's homes. In winter a small number of vessels are employed in deep-sea fishing."

"On the Coast of New Hampshire, the decrease for the past twenty years is said to have been from 50 to 75 per cent.

"In Rhode Island and Connecticut, there is also a considerable falling off, both in number and size."

Concerning the distribution of these Crustaceans it may be stated, *en passant*, that a few stray individuals are occasionally met with on the north-eastern coast of Virginia. On the coast of New Jersey, they are somewhat more abundant, and moderately common on Connecticut shores. The entire coast line of Massachusetts used to abound in lobsters; but over-fishing has nearly depleted the shallow waters.

IMMATURE LOBSTERS.

Professor Boeck, of Norway, expresses his opinion that lobsters become capable of spawning when three years old and have reached the length of eight inches. Lobsters less than eight inches are seldom found with any ova. See Goode's report, United States Fish Commission, Sec. V. Vol. 1, 2, page 715.

Mr. S. Wilmot, Superintendent of Fish Culture, states that his experiment showed no lobsters with eggs attached under eight and a-half inches long. See Fish Breeding Report, 1890, page 25.

Mr. Alfred Ogden, fishery officer, after careful examination says that in the Straits of Northumberland 90 per cent of eight inch lobsters are capable of reproducing their species. He has noticed exuded eggs on smaller lobsters, even under seven inches. See his report in No. 2. Lobster Fishery memo.

Mr. Johnson, of Boston, stated before the American Fish Culture Association that in the waters of Massachusetts the minimum size of reproduction was ten and a-half inches. See Goode's report, sec. V. vol. 1, 2, page 730.

Mr. A. Neilsen, Superintendent of Fisheries in Newfoundland, places great importance on prohibiting the capture of immature lobsters. He recommends ten inches in some parts of Newfoundland and nine inches in others, as the legal size limit.

Mr. Robert Hockin, Inspector of Fisheries in Nova Scotia, states in his report that it is not profitable to put up lobsters of less than 9 inches in length; this law would meet the sympathy and interest of the packers.

BERRIED LOBSTERS.

Mr. Alfred Ogden suggests that the clause *re-berried* lobsters be excluded from proposed regulations, as he claims it has never been enforced, and never can be without placing an officer on each boat.

It is admitted by practical fishermen that berried lobsters when taken from the traps are not liberated, but stripped of their eggs and thrown with the others.

The Fishery Commission of England, after a thorough investigation of their fisheries, report as follows:—

"We are also unable to advise the other recommendations which have been made to us, viz; that the sale of berried lobsters should be prohibited. In the first place, if it were illegal to take berried lobsters, it would not pay the fishermen in many cases to pursue the lobster fishery. In the next place, the lobster when berried is in the very best possible condition for food, and it would be as illogical therefore, to prohibit its capture, as to prohibit the taking of full herrings.

"In the third place, if its capture were illegal, Mr. Schoville's evidence at Hamble shows that the fishermen would probably remove the berries.

"The berried lobster would no longer be seen in the market, but berried lobsters would be killed as much as ever."

(See British Commission Report vol. XXIV., pages XVI and XVII.)

The above is applicable to Canada in every particular.

The question of berried lobsters and the waste of eggs is fully dealt with by Superintendent Wilmot in the Fish Breeding Report for 1890, pp. 23, 24 and 25.

LOBSTER TRAPS.

Space between slats.

The catching of small lobsters is little better than dead loss to the packers, hence the necessity of preventing as much as possible the destruction of these immature crustaceans. That this end could be achieved by regulating the space between the slats of the traps is now evidenced beyond doubt, and that such a regulation after due notice given would not be objectionable to packers is also proved, by the fact that only two out of thirteen, to whom the question was referred, were opposed to any change.

Mr. Nielsen, superintendent of the lobster hatchery of Newfoundland, and who is an expert in such matters considers the regulating of lobster traps as one of the best ways to save the young lobsters from destruction.

In the Annual Report of the Newfoundland fisheries for 1891, he says:—

"Last summer I made a series of experiments with lobster traps in order to determine what space various sizes of lobsters required to escape from a trap. For this purpose I had six traps so constructed that lobsters could not get out otherwise than through the space between the laths. The space between the two undermost laths on each side and end, in the different traps, I had arranged from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; the laths in one trap being placed one-eighth of an inch further apart than in the other. Lobsters of various sizes, ranging from eight inches to ten inches in length, were then placed in the different traps, and these were pushed out into the sea for observation. The Hon. A. W. Harvey, chairman of the commission, was present and witnessed the experiment.

"The lobsters made the most strenuous and persevering efforts to escape. The results of the experiments were as follows:—

1. That a lobster ten inches in length can work itself out between the laths, in a trap, if these are put $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches apart, but cannot get out between the laths if they are placed $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches apart.

2. That a lobster nine inches in length can work itself out between the laths in a trap, the laths of which are put $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches apart, but cannot get out between the laths if placed two inches apart.

3. That a lobster eight inches in length can work itself out between the laths if these are placed $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches apart, but cannot get out between the laths if these are placed $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches apart.

"A model of the traps I had constructed for these experiments may be seen at the office of the Fisheries Commission. They are made on a different plan from the traps generally used in the fisheries of Newfoundland, and the cost of construction is only half that of the ordinary trap. No netting or twine is used in the heads—the most expensive part of the trap—so that they are less expensive to keep in order, and can be made in half the time."

(For a description of this trap, see the Annual Report.)

Mr. Alfred Ogden, officer in charge of the Canadian Lobster Hatchery at Pictou, N.S., describes his experience on the same subject with the following results:—

A 10-inch lobster went through a $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch space easily.

A 9-inch lobster went through a 2-inch space easily and through a $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch space with difficulty.

An $8\frac{1}{2}$ -inch lobster could not go through an $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch space.

An 8-inch lobster went through a $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch space easily, but could not go through a $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch space.

A $7\frac{1}{2}$ -inch lobster went through a $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch space with great difficulty, but could not go through a $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch space.

THE LOBSTER FISHERY REGULATIONS OF THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Re space between slats of traps.

In the Report of the Fish Commissioners of the above named State for the year 1892, it is stated that:

"At a hearing before the Legislature of 1889, for the better protection and preservation of the lobster fisheries, there were present over a hundred fishermen, representing every town on the coast of Massachusetts where this industry is of any value. Their opinions were freely expressed, either personally or by counsel. All were in favour of protecting the egg-bearing lobsters, and all but one favoured the $10\frac{1}{2}$ -inch law. The only fear they expressed was that the law would not be enforced, and law-abiding fishermen be handicapped by the lawless element which exists more or less among the fishermen. Many of the more intelligent men among them offered to aid us in our efforts to protect the fisheries. The law of 1889 passed both Houses by a unanimous vote, and the Legislature placed in the hands of the commissioners what was supposed to be sufficient means to enforce the law.

A large number of prosecutions have been made, and up to the present time the fines paid into the courts have gone far toward reimbursing the state for its expenditures in this direction. The lawless fishermen have been driven from one thing to another, until at last they have adopted a device which makes it difficult to detect them. They put their short lobsters in traps or small crates and bags, and sink them, to be taken up at night and either put on board lobster smacks to be carried out of the State, or sent to restaurants and places of summer resort. A majority of these violators are foreigners or persons from other States. This creates dissatisfaction among the law-abiding fishermen, who complain that they put over the small lobsters only to have them caught and sold by others. In justice to those who are living up to the law, and in the interest of economy to the State, we recommend that the Act of 1889 be amended as follows:—

Section 3 of Chapter 109 of the Acts of the year 1889 is hereby amended by inserting before the words "all cars," &c., the following words: "All traps and contrivances for taking lobsters shall have their slats not less than 2 inches apart, and shall, with the buoys attached to them, have the name and residence of the owner or owners legibly marked thereon;" so that said section shall read as follows, viz.:—

Sec. 3. All traps and contrivances for taking lobsters shall have their slats not less than 2 inches apart, and shall, with the buoys attached to them, have the name and residence of the owner or owners legibly marked thereon; and all cars or other

contrivances for keeping lobsters shall have the name and residence of the owner or owners legibly marked thereon, under the penalty prescribed in section 75 of chapter 91 of the Public Statutes.

If this amendment is enacted it will allow almost all lobsters, less than 10½ inches in size, to pass out of the traps, and save the fishermen much labour in sorting their catch. Several lobster catchers have already adopted this arrangement, and it should be made universal by law. It was not until lobsters were reduced in size by over-fishing, and the market was open to small ones, that the slats on lobster traps were put closer together than 2 inches. In all countries where fisheries are protected, the size of mesh of nets is regulated; and there seems to be no good reason why the same principle should not be applied to lobster traps."

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APPENDIX B.

REVIEW OF THE LOBSTER FISHERY LEGISLATION IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.

Subsection 7 of section 15 of the Fisheries Act provides that:—"Shell-fish fisheries shall be subject to the provisions of this Act, and any regulation or regulations to be made under it."

The first regulation bearing on the lobster fishery was enacted in 1873. It prohibited the taking of soft-shell lobsters, lobsters in spawn and lobsters under one pound and a half in weight.

In 1874, the months of July and August were fixed upon as a close time, and a gauge of nine inches introduced.

In 1876, the above dates were altered, so as to read from 10th July to 20th August, and subsequently from 10th August to 20th September.

In 1877, the close time was fixed from 1st to 31st August for Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and the southern coast of New Brunswick, and from 20th August to 15th September for Quebec and the northern coast of New Brunswick.

In 1879, the above dates were again changed and a new regulation adopted limiting fishing from 1st April to 1st August on the western coasts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and from 20th April to 20th August in Quebec, Prince Edward Island and the northern coasts of New Brunswick.

In 1887, the close time was made to read from 1st July to 31st December on that part of the Atlantic Coast extending from Cape Canso to the United States boundary, and from 15th July to 31st December in all the remaining waters of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Quebec.

In 1888 the regulations of the previous year remained in force.

An Order in Council dated 26th March, 1889, confirmed the close season established in 1887, with the exception that on that part of the coast of the Atlantic Ocean from St. Peter's Island, Richmond County, to Meat Cove, Victoria County, fishing was to be permitted until 28th July.

On the 25th of April of the same year, another Order in Council was passed with the above exception omitted, thus restoring the close season as it was before.

The clause relating to soft-shelled and berried lobsters was reinstated, and the minimum length was increased from 9 to 9½ inches, measuring from head to tail. The standard was thus increased by one-half inch.

(See O.C. herewith.)

PRESENT CLOSE SEASON.

Since the consolidation of the Orders in Council (18th July, 1889,) no changes have been made in the close season for lobsters which was fixed on that part of the Bay of Fundy extending from the United States boundary to Canso, from 1st July to 31st December and in all the remaining waters of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Quebec, from the 15th July to the 31st December.

In 1891, an Order in Council dated 28th January, fixes the minimum length of lobsters at 9 inches with no other changes. (See O. C. herewith.)

An Order in Council dated 25th May, 1892, applying to that portion of Prince Edward Island coast from Cape Traverse in an eastwardly and northwardly direction to East Point, thence westwardly to the north side of North Cape, provides that the limit size of 9 inches shall not be enforced, but that the close season shall commence on the 1st July instead of the 15th as enacted by previous Orders in Council. (See O.C. herewith.)

TABLE OF CLOSE SEASONS FOR THE LOBSTER FISHERY FROM 1873 TO 1892.

Year.	Close seasons.
1873.	No regular close season. Only taking of soft-shell lobsters, lobsters in spawn and under $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. in weight prohibited.
1874.	July and August fixed upon as a close season and gauge of 9 inches introduced.
1876.	Above date altered so as to read from 10th July to 20th August, and subsequently from 10th August to 20th September.
1877.	1st to 31st August for Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and southern coast of New Brunswick, and 20th August to the 15th September for Quebec, and northern coast of New Brunswick.
1879.	1st April to 1st August for western coast Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; and 20th April to 20th August for Quebec, Prince Edward Island, and northern coast of New Brunswick.
1887.	1st July to 31st December for Atlantic coast from Cape Canso to United States boundary and from 15th July to 31st December for remainder of Maritime Provinces.
1889 to 1892.	Same as in 1887.

EXTENSION OF TIME.

An extension of time was asked in 1879, but refused.

In 1880, ten days extension was granted.

None in 1881.

In 1882, fourteen days extension was granted for Nova Scotia, and twenty-one for New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Quebec.

In 1883, five days extension was granted to Prince Edward Island, Quebec and the northern coast of New Brunswick.

In 1884, the fishing season was extended ten days.

In 1885, an extension was asked and refused.

The same in 1886.

In 1887, fifteen days extension were granted to Guysborough, Richmond, Cape Breton and Victoria Counties.

In 1888, twelve days extension were granted to that part of Cape Breton coast extending between St. Peters and Meat Cove.

In 1889, applications for extension of time were refused everywhere.

In 1890, the packers on the Cape Breton coast were allowed an extension of ten days till the 25th July.

In 1891, a general extension of fifteen days was granted.

In 1892, notwithstanding the efforts of some of the packers, no extension was allowed anywhere.

COPIES OF ORDER IN COUNCIL RELATIVE TO THE
LOBSTER INDUSTRY.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA,

MONDAY, 7th day of July, 1873.

PRESENT :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

On the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and under the provisions of the 19th clause of "The Fisheries Act," His Excellency has been pleased to make the following Regulation:—

"In the Provinces of Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick no person shall at any time, fish for, catch, kill, buy, sell, or have in possession any soft-shelled lobsters, or female lobsters with eggs attached, nor shall lobsters of a less weight than one and a-half pounds be at any time fished for, caught, killed, bought, sold or had in possession; but when caught by accident in nets or other fishing apparatus lawfully used for other fish, young lobsters of less weight than one pound and a half shall be liberated alive at the risk and cost of the owner of the net or apparatus, or by the occupier of the fishery, on whom, in every case, shall devolve the proof of such actual liberation."

W. A. HIMSWORTH,
Clerk, Privy Council.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA,

THURSDAY, 23rd day of April, 1874.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

On the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and under the provisions of the 19th clause of "The Fisheries Act," His Excellency has been pleased to make the following Regulation:—

"In the Provinces of Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick no person shall, during the months of July and August, fish for, catch, kill, buy, sell or have in possession any soft-shelled lobsters or female lobsters, with eggs attached, nor shall lobsters of any less size than 9 inches in length measuring from head to tail, exclusive of claws or feelers, be at any time fished for, caught, killed, bought, sold or had in possession, but when caught by accident in nets, or other fishing apparatus lawfully used for other fish, lobsters with eggs attached, soft-shelled and young lobsters of a less size than 9 inches shall be liberated alive, at the risk and cost of the owner of the net or apparatus, or by the occupier of the fishery, on whom in every case, shall devolve the proof of such actual liberation."

His Excellency has also been pleased to cancel the Fishery Regulation established by Order in Council of the 7th day of July, 1873, having reference to the lobster fishery, and the same is hereby cancelled accordingly.

W. A. HIMSWORTH,
Clerk, Privy Council,

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA,

THURSDAY, 20th day of April, 1876.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

On the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and under the provisions of the Act passed in the Session of the Parliament of Canada, held in the 31st year of Her Majesty's reign, chaptered 60, and known as "The Fisheries Act,"—

His Excellency, by and with the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, has been pleased to make the following Fishery Regulations:—

"No person shall fish for, catch, kill, buy, sell or possess any lobsters between the 10th day of July and the 20th day of August in each year.

"Female lobsters in spawn or with eggs attached, soft-shelled and young lobsters of less size than nine inches in length, measuring from head to tail, exclusive of claws or feelers, shall not be at any time fished for, caught, killed, bought, sold or possessed, but when caught by accident in nets or other fishing apparatus lawfully

used for other fish, lobsters in spawn or with eggs attached, soft-shelled and young lobsters of a less size than nine inches, shall be liberated alive, at the risk and cost of the owner of the net or apparatus, or by the occupier of the fishery, on whom, in every case, shall devolve the proof of such actual liberation.

His Excellency has also been pleased to order that the Regulation passed on the 23rd of April, 1874, respecting "Lobster Fishing" be and the same is hereby repealed.

W. A. HIMSWORTH,

Clerk, Privy Council.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA,

FRIDAY, 19th day of May, 1876.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

On the recommendation of the Honorable the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and under the provisions of the 19th section of the Act passed in the session of the Parliament of Canada, held in the 31st year of Her Majesty's Reign, chaptered 60, and known as "The Fisheries Act," His Excellency, by and with the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, has been pleased to order, and it is hereby ordered, that the first paragraph of the Fishery Regulation adopted by the Governor-General in Council, on the 20th ultimo, relating to the lobster fishery, be and the same is hereby amended by substituting therefor the following:—

"No person shall fish for, catch, kill, buy, sell or possess any lobsters, between the 10th day of August and the 20th day of September in each year."

W. A. HIMSWORTH,

Clerk, Privy Council.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA,

SATURDAY, 26th day of May, 1877.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

On the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and under the provisions of the Act passed in the session of the Parliament of Canada, held in the 31st year of Her Majesty's Reign, chaptered 60, and known as "The Fisheries Act,"—

His Excellency, by and with the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, has been pleased to order, and it is hereby ordered, that the Fishery Regulation adopted by the Governor-General in Council on the 19th May, 1876, relating to the lobster fishery, be rescinded and that the following be substituted therefor:—

"In the provinces of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and that part of the province of New Brunswick, comprising the counties of Charlotte, St. John and Albert, no person shall fish for, catch, kill, buy, sell or possess any lobsters from the 1st to the 31st day of August in each year.

"And in that part of the province of New Brunswick comprising the counties of Westmoreland, Kent, Northumberland, Gloucester and Restigouche, together with the province of Quebec, no person shall fish for, catch, kill, buy, sell or possess any lobsters from the 20th day of August to the 15th day of September in each year."

W. A. HIMSWORTH,

Clerk, Privy Council.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA,

THURSDAY, 13th day of March, 1879.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

On the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and under the provisions of the 19th section of the Act passed in the session of the Parliament of Canada held in the 36th year of Her Majesty's reign, chaptered 60, and known as "The Fisheries Act,"—

His Excellency, by and with the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, has been pleased to order, and it is hereby ordered, that the following fishery regulation be, and the same is hereby made and adopted:—

Lobster Fishery.

All previous Orders in Council relating to the lobster fishery are hereby rescinded, and the following substituted therefor:—

1. In that part of the Province of Nova Scotia, comprising parts of the Counties of Cumberland and Colchester, on the Bay of Fundy, the Counties of Hants, King's, Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queen's, Lunenburg, Halifax, Guysborough, Richmond, Cape Breton and Victoria; also in the Province of New Brunswick, comprising part of the County of Westmoreland, on the Bay of Fundy, and the Counties of Albert, St. John and Charlotte; it shall be unlawful to fish for, catch, kill, buy, sell or (without lawful excuse) possess any lobsters from the 1st day of August to the 1st day of April in each year.

2. In that part of the Province of Nova Scotia, comprising the Counties of Inverness, Antigonish, Pictou and parts of Colchester and Cumberland, on Northumberland Strait; and that part of the Province of New Brunswick, comprising the Counties of Westmoreland (in part), Kent, Northumberland, Gloucester and Restigouche; also in the Provinces of Quebec and Prince Edward Island; it shall be unlawful to fish for, catch, kill, buy, sell or (without lawful excuse) possess any lobsters from the 20th day of August to the 20th day of April in each year.

3. It shall be unlawful at any time to fish for, catch, kill, buy, sell or possess any female lobsters in spawn or with eggs attached, soft-shelled, or any young lobsters of less size than nine inches in length, measuring from head to tail, exclusive of claws or feelers; and when caught by accident in nets or other fishing apparatus, lawfully used for other fish, they shall be liberated alive at the risk and cost of the owner of the net or other apparatus, or by the occupier of the fishery, on either of whom shall devolve the proof of such actual liberation.

W. A. HIMSWORTH,
Clerk Privy Council.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA,

SATURDAY, 17th day of December, 1887.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

On the recommendation of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and under the provisions of the 16th section of chapter 95 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, intitled "An Act respecting Fisheries and Fishing,"—

His Excellency in Council has been pleased to order, and it is hereby ordered, that the fishery regulation relating to the lobster fishery adopted by the Order in Council of the 13th March, 1879, be, and the same is hereby rescinded, and the following adopted in its stead:—

1. On that part of the coast of the Atlantic Ocean extending from Cape Canso westward, and following the coast line of the Bay of Fundy to the United States' boundary line, it shall be unlawful to fish for, catch, kill, buy, sell or have in possession (without lawful excuse) any lobsters between the 1st day of July and the 31st day of December, 1888.

2. In the remaining waters of the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and in the waters of Prince Edward Island, and Quebec, (including the Magdalen Islands and Anticosti), it shall be unlawful to fish for, catch, kill, buy, sell or have in possession (without lawful excuse) any lobsters between the 15th day of July and the 31st day of December, 1888.

3. It shall be unlawful at any time to fish for, catch, kill, buy, sell, expose for sale or have in possession any berried or soft-shell lobsters, or any lobster under nine inches in length, measuring from head to tail, exclusive of claws or feelers, and when caught in fishing apparatus in legal use, they shall be liberated alive by the proprietor, owner, agent, tenant, occupier, partner or person actually in charge, either as occupant or servant, on each of whom shall devolve the proof of such actual liberation, and each of whom shall be deemed to be jointly and severally liable for any penalties or moneys recoverable under the Fisheries Act or of any regulation made under it.

JOHN J. McGEE,
Clerk, Privy Council.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA,

THURSDAY, the 25th day of April, 1889.

PRESENT :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

His Excellency the Governor-General in Council under the authority conferred upon him by section 16 of "The Fisheries Act," chapter 95 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, has been pleased to order, and it is hereby ordered, that the regulations relating to the lobster fishery, established by the Order in Council of the 26th March, 1889, be and the same are hereby cancelled, and the following regulations established instead thereof:—

Lobsters.

1. On the part of the coast of the Atlantic Ocean extending from Cape Canso westward, and following the coast line of the Bay of Fundy to the United States' boundary line, it shall be unlawful to fish for, catch, kill, buy, sell or have in possession (without lawful excuse) any lobsters between the 1st day of July and the 31st day of December in each year.

2. In the remaining waters of the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and in the waters of Prince Edward Island and Quebec (including the Magdalen Islands and Anticosti), it shall be unlawful to fish for, catch, kill, buy, sell or have in possession (without lawful excuse) any lobsters between the 15th day of July and the 31st day of December in each year.

3. It shall be unlawful at any time to fish for, catch, buy, kill, sell, expose for sale, or have in possession, any berried or soft-shell lobster or lobsters, or any lobster or lobsters under nine and one-half inches in length, measuring from head to tail, exclusive of claws or feelers, and when caught in fishing apparatus in legal use, they shall be liberated alive by the proprietor, owner, agent, tenant, occupier, partner or person actually in charge either as occupant or servant, on each of whom shall devolve the proof of such actual liberation, and each of whom shall be deemed to be jointly and severally liable for any penalties or moneys recoverable under the Fisheries Act or of any regulation made under the said Act.

JOHN J. McGEE,
Clerk, Privy Council.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA,

WEDNESDAY, the 28th day of January, 1891.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

Whereas it is considered expedient that sub-section *c* of section 5 of the General Fishery Regulation prescribed by the Order in Council of the 18th July, 1889, chapter 69 of the Consolidated Orders in Council of Canada, which enacts that it shall be unlawful at any time to fish for, catch, kill, buy, sell, expose for sale or have in possession any berried or soft-shelled lobster or lobsters or any lobster or lobsters under nine and one-half inches in length, measuring from head to tail exclusive of claws or feelers, should be amended by making the legal size for lobsters nine inches, instead of nine and one-half inches, as at present,—

Therefore His Excellency, under the authority conferred upon him by "The Fisheries Act," chapter 95 of the Revised Statutes, and by and with the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, is pleased to order that sub-section *c* of section 5 of the aforesaid Order in Council of the 18th July, 1889, as well as any other Order in Council that may have been passed to the same effect, as such sub-section *c*, shall be and the same is hereby amended so as to read as follows:—

"(c.) It shall be unlawful at any time to fish for, catch, kill, buy, sell, expose for sale, or have in possession, any berried or soft-shelled lobster or lobsters, or any lobster or lobsters, under nine inches in length, measuring from head to tail exclusive of claws or feelers, and when caught in fishing apparatus in legal use, they shall be liberated alive by the proprietor, owner, agent, tenant, occupier, partner or person actually in charge either as occupant or servant, on each of whom shall devolve the proof of such actual liberation, and each of whom shall be deemed to be jointly and severally liable for any penalties or moneys recoverable under the Fisheries Act, or of any regulation made under the said Act."

JOHN J. McGEE,
Clerk, Privy Council.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA.

WEDNESDAY, the 25th day of May, 1892.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

Whereas it has been represented to His Excellency that on account of the small size of the lobsters on a certain section of the coasts of the Province of Prince Edward Island, the enforcement of the size limit of nine inches provided by the existing regulations would effect a practical closure of the lobster canneries of that district:

And whereas it is also represented that the addition of fifteen days to the close season for lobsters on these coasts would be a fair equivalent for the suspension of the size limit, as the number of lobsters that would thus be saved from the pack during the present season would work as effectual a means for the preservation of the lobster as the enforcement of the size limit during the whole open season,—

His Excellency is therefore pleased, under the provisions of "The Fisheries Act," chapter 95 of the Revised Statutes, and by and with the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, to order that section 4 of the General Fishery Regulations for the Province of Prince Edward Island, established by the Order in Council of the 18th day of July, 1889, chapter 73 of the Consolidated Orders in Council of Canada as well as the regulation affecting the lobster fishery established by the Order in Council of the 28th day of January, 1891, so far as they relate to that portion of the coast of the Province of Prince Edward Island, extending from Cape Traverse in an eastwardly and northwardly direction to East Point, thence in a westwardly direction to the north side of North Cape, and to that portion only, shall be and the same are hereby suspended, and within the said limits no person shall fish

for, catch, kill, buy, sell or have in possession (without lawful excuse) any lobsters between the first day of July one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two and the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three.

JOHN J. McGEE,

Clerk, Privy Council.

REVISED STATUTES OF THE STATE OF MAINE.

Lobster Fishery.

Sec. 19.—There shall be a close time for lobsters between the 15th day of August and November, during which no lobster shall be fished for, taken, caught, killed, bought, sold, exposed for sale, or in possession, in cars, pounds or otherwise, under a penalty of fifty dollars for the offence and one dollar for every lobster so taken, caught, killed, bought, sold, exposed for sale, or in possession as aforesaid.

Sec. 20.—No person or corporation shall can or preserve any lobsters between the 1st day of August and the following April under a penalty of five dollars for every lobster so canned or preserved, and a further penalty of three hundred dollars for each day on which such unlawful canning or preserving is done.

Sec. 21.—It is unlawful to fish for, catch, buy, sell, expose for sale, or possess, for canning purposes or otherwise, between the 1st day of April and August, any female lobster in spawn or with eggs attached, or any young lobster less than nine inches in length, measuring from head to tail extended, exclusive of claws or feelers, and such lobsters when caught shall be liberated alive at the risk and cost of the party taking them, under a penalty of one dollar for each lobster so caught, bought, sold, exposed for sale, or in possession, not so liberated.

The above provisions were amended by chapter 275 of the Public Laws of the State of Maine, passed in 1885, which reads as follows:—

Sec. 1.—Section 19 of chapter 40 of the Revised Statutes is hereby amended so that as amended it shall read as follows:—

"Sec. 19.—There shall be a close time for lobsters between the 15th day of August and the 1st day of October, during which no lobster shall be fished for, taken, caught, killed, bought, sold, exposed for sale, or in possession, in cars, pounds or otherwise, under a penalty of fifty dollars for the offence and one dollar for every lobster so taken, caught, killed, bought, sold, exposed for sale, or in possession as aforesaid: Provided, however, that the provisions of this section shall not apply to any person taking lobsters not less than ten and one-half inches in length for the sole use and consumption of himself or family."

Sec. 2.—Section 20 of said chapter is hereby amended so that as amended it shall read as follows:—

"Sec. 20.—No person or corporation shall can or preserve any lobsters between the 15th day of July and the 1st day of the following April, under a penalty of five dollars for every lobster so canned or preserved and a further penalty of three hundred dollars for each day on which such unlawful canning or preserving is done."

Sec. 3.—Section 21 of said chapter is hereby amended so that as amended it shall read as follows:—

"Sec. 21.—It is unlawful to fish for, catch, buy, sell, expose for sale or possess between the 1st day of October and the 15th day of the following August, any female lobsters in spawn or with eggs attached, or any young lobster less than 10½ inches in length, measuring from head to tail extended, exclusive of claws or feelers, and such lobsters when caught shall be liberated alive at the risk and cost of the party taking them, under a penalty of one dollar for each lobster so caught, bought, sold, exposed for sale, or in possession not so liberated. Provided, however, that from the 1st day of April to the 15th day of July it shall be lawful to fish for, catch, buy, sell, expose for sale, or possess for canning and all other purposes, any lobsters not less than 9 inches in length, measured as aforesaid, but not including female lobsters in spawn or with eggs attached."

Present close season for lobsters in Maine is from the 15th August to the 1st October.

Minimum size of lobsters is 10½ inches.

REVISED STATUTES OF THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Lobster Fishery.

Sec. 81.—Whoever, from the 20th day of June, to the 20th day of September takes a lobster, shall be punished for each offence by a fine of not less than ten or more than one hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the House of Correction for not less than one or more than three months; but a person catching a lobster when lawfully fishing and immediately returning it alive to the waters from which it was taken, shall not be subject to such penalty.

Sec. 82.—Whoever, from the 20th day of June to the 20th day of September, buys, sells or has in possession a lobster, taken in this Commonwealth, shall forfeit for each offence not less than ten or more than fifty dollars.

Sec. 84.—Whoever sells or offers to sell, or has in his possession with intent to sell, either directly or indirectly, a lobster less than $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, measuring from one extreme of the body extended to the other, exclusive of claws or feelers, shall forfeit five dollars for every such lobster, and in all prosecutions under this section the possession of any lobster not of the required length shall be *prima facie* evidence to convict.

The above sections were amended by the Act of 1886 which provides that:—

"Sections 81 and 82 which regulate the catching of lobsters are amended by reducing the time from June 20th to September 20th, to the month of July, and changing "lobster" to "female lobster bearing eggs."

Sec. 84.—The possession of a lobster under the legal size is punished, the words "with intent to sell," being stricken out. Mutilation affecting the length is *prima facie* evidence that the lobster is under the legal size. The commissioners of inland fisheries, with the assistance of the district police, have power to enforce the law.

The fish commissioners, either personally or by deputy, and the district police, detailed for that purpose, may search suspected places for, seize and remove lobsters taken, held or offered for sale illegally.

Present close season for lobsters in Massachusetts is from 1st to 31st July.

Minimum size of lobsters is $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

APPENDIX C.

THE UNITED STATES LOBSTER FISHERY.

The United States lobster fishery has had such a rapid growth, that the demands upon it have exceeded its capacity. The total catch increased from year to year, but so did the number of fishermen and the number of traps, even in the greater proportion, and the grounds have been enlarged until they now cover an exceedingly broad area and extend into deeper water than was ever dreamt of in connection with this fishery. The decrease in the average catch per trap and man, as well as in the yearly earnings, and average size of lobsters, has kept pace with the increase in the fishery; the inshore grounds in many places have been nearly depleted, and in some of the deeper areas, the lobsters are so much scattered that it is no longer profitable to set the traps in trawl fashion.

The following figures and data, which are compiled from the United States Census returns for the year 1880, give an accurate idea of the yield and value of the lobster fishery. They tell their own tale and require no further comments, except a simple assertion that the state of comparative decay into which the lobster industry of certain States had already fallen, and its complete exhaustion in others, is evidently due to the same causes which have worked similar results in Canada; that is to say, over-fishing.

From the United States census returns for the year 1880.

RECAPITULATION.

State.	Lobster Traps.	Lobsters, Fresh.	Lobsters, Canned.	Bulk.	Value Fresh.	Value Canned.
	No.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Cans.	\$	\$
Maine.....	104,465	4,739,898	9,455,284	1,831,211	173,796	238,253
New Hampshire.....	1,800	250,000			7,500	
Massachusetts.....	33,996	4,505,771			172,745	
Rhode Island.....	2,857	423,250			15,871	
Connecticut.....	3,900	723,885			27,145	
New York.....		135,000			5,062	
New Jersey.....		156,800			5,880	
Delaware.....		180			6	
	147,018	10,334,754	9,455,284	1,831,211	408,005	238,253
						408,005
						746,258

1887—Canada.

Nova Scotia.....	*80,000	3,046,000	6,688,923	†5,225,531	262,326	802,670
New Brunswick.....	118,115	7,300,000	2,630,559		109,500	315,667
Prince Edward Island.....	*100,000		2,009,107			241,092
Quebec.....	*45,000		857,098			102,851
Total.....	443,115	10,346,000	12,185,687	5,225,531	371,826	1,462,280
						371,826
						1,834,106

*Approximately.
†Alive.

STATISTICAL STATEMENTS OF CANADIAN LOBSTER INDUSTRY

The following tables showing the value of fishing plant etc., as well as the yield and value of the lobster fishery in Canada, need no comments. They show at a glance the immense development of this industry. From 61,100 pound cans which it produced in 1869, it has grown to 14,285,157 pounds in 1891. During the same period the value of both canned and fresh lobsters rose from, \$15,275 to \$2,252,421.

In Prince Edward Island alone, the number of factories which was only 35 in 1879, has increased to 212 in 1892, and it is believed that this number was still augmented by several new factories last year.

STATISTICAL STATEMENTS in connection with the Lobster Fishery.

Re number of Factories and Traps.

This information can be supplied in a complete manner only for 1890 and 1892.

Number of Factories.....	370	626
Number of Traps.....	553,068	768,479

NUMBER of Canneries in the different Provinces.

Year.	Prince Edward Island.	New Brunswick.	Quebec.	Nova Scotia.
1892.....	212	186	46	182
1891.....	142	143	46	not given.
1890.....	98	106	33	133
1889.....	81	not given.	37	not given.
1888.....	79	75	35	do
1887.....	130	123	45	do
1886.....	130	168	not given.	do
1885.....	115	169	33	do
1884.....	95	not given.	not given.	do
1883.....	88	do	do	do
1882.....	123	do	do	do
1881.....	118	do	do	do
1880.....	58	do	do	do
1879.....	35	do	do	do

The total number of lobster traps not being regularly given by the different inspectors, it is impossible to make a general statement of number of traps:—

For last year (1892) the number of traps was 768,479.

For the year 1891, it was 547,788.

For the year 1890, it was 553,068.

For the year 1888, it was 502,250.

That is, over half a million traps used annually.

TABLE of the yield and value of lobsters in Prince Edward Island.

Year.	One pound cans.	Value.
	No.	\$
1876.....	362,676	43,521
1877.....	663,900	99,585
1878.....	1,649,900	329,960
1879.....	2,272,825	464,565
1880.....	3,551,050	710,210
1881.....	6,312,865	1,262,573
1882.....	5,198,720	1,039,744
1883.....	3,844,573	461,348
1884.....	4,336,655	520,398
1885.....	4,389,189	526,702
1886.....	3,616,780	434,013
1887.....	2,009,107	241,092
1888.....	1,446,227	173,547
1889.....	2,060,947	247,313
1890.....	2,416,794	290,015
1891.....	3,670,414	513,857
1892.....	2,819,572	394,739

TABLE showing the number of lobster traps; also, yield and value of lobsters in New Brunswick since 1883.

Year.	No. of traps.	Quantity of lobsters.		Total value.
		Cans.	Tons.	
				\$
1883.....	82,043	4,042,954	925	634,193
1884.....	105,984	5,662,072	1,709	900,580
1885.....	127,488	5,236,252	3,111	878,767
1886.....	139,236	4,661,812	4,290	827,971
1887.....	118,115	2,630,559	3,650	425,167
1888.....	84,013	1,843,368	1,948	334,945
1889.....	93,114	1,800,573	1,035	247,118
1890.....	118,593	2,365,256	1,014	333,960
1891.....	140,518	3,330,120	922	503,096
1892.....	172,022	3,204,320	1,132	493,804

NOTE.—New Brunswick is given for comparison purposes, as in no other province is the number of traps regularly mentioned.

TABLE showing the yield and value of the lobster fisheries since 1869, in Canada.

Year.	Lobsters.	
	Lbs.	Value.
		\$
1869.....	61,100	15,275
1870.....	591,500	92,575
1871.....	1,130,000	282,500
1872.....	3,565,863	882,633
1873.....	4,864,993	1,214,749
1874.....	8,117,221	2,022,581
1875.....	6,514,380	1,638,659
1876.....	5,373,088	795,082
1877.....	8,086,819	1,213,085
1878.....	10,714,611	1,689,681
1879.....	10,244,329	1,650,290
1880.....	13,105,072	2,143,312
1881.....	18,576,523	2,955,861
1882.....	20,818,730	2,849,705
1883.....	17,084,020	1,949,253
1884.....	22,063,283	2,351,859
1885.....	27,299,036	2,613,731
1886.....	33,758,421	2,638,394
1887.....	30,369,687	1,834,108
1888.....	22,173,773	1,483,388
1889.....	21,131,233	1,484,488
1890.....	25,055,984	1,648,344
1891.....	26,909,157	2,252,421
1892.....	24,580,498	1,996,725

NOTE.—Lbs. includes the number of cans and quantity shipped alive or fresh.

*It is no cans (1 lb)
+ lbs. fresh*

TABLE showing the total yield and value of the Lobster Fishery from 1869 to 1892.

Years.	Lobsters preserved.		Lobsters shipped alive or fresh.		Total Value.
	Number of cans.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	
		\$		\$	\$
1869	61,100	15,275			15,275
1870	591,500	92,575			92,575
1871	1,130,000	282,500			282,500
1872	3,565,863	882,633			882,633
1873	4,864,993	1,214,749			1,214,749
1874	8,117,221	2,022,581			2,022,581
1875	6,514,380	1,638,659			1,638,659
1876	5,373,088	795,082			795,082
1877	8,086,819	1,213,085			1,213,085
1878	10,714,611	1,689,681			1,689,681
1879	10,244,329	1,650,290			1,650,290
1880	13,105,072	2,143,312			2,143,312
1881	17,490,523	2,939,221	543	16,640	2,955,861
1882	16,808,730	2,780,445	2,005	60,210	2,849,705
1883	13,364,020	1,889,265	1,860	59,988	1,949,253
1884	15,933,283	2,259,892	3,065	91,967	2,351,859
1885	17,303,038	2,463,780	4,998	149,951	2,613,731
1886	16,434,421	2,356,650	8,662	281,734	2,638,384
1887	12,185,687	1,462,282	9,062	371,826	1,834,108
1888	9,597,773	1,207,033	6,288	276,354	1,483,388
1889	10,637,233	1,276,468	5,247	208,020	1,484,488
1890	11,559,984	1,387,198	6,748	261,146	1,648,344
1891	14,285,157	1,999,921	6,312	252,500	2,252,421
1892	12,524,498	1,758,425	6,028	238,300	1,996,725

this is now

this is now

5,275
2,575
2,500
2,633
4,749
2,581
8,659
5,082
3,085
9,681
0,290
3,312
5,861
9,705
9,253
1,859
3,731
8,394
4,108
3,888
4,488
8,344
2,421
6,725

1,167

APPENDIX D.

EXTRACTS *re* LOBSTERS, FROM DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS BY
DIFFERENT FISHERY OFFICERS.

Supplement No. 2, Fishery Statements, Report of W. H. Rogers, Inspector of Fisheries for Nova Scotia, p. 3.

15th Annual
Rept. Dept. of
Marine and
Fisheries,
1882.

"I would not recommend any extension of the open season for these fish, if any such change is contemplated. I would, on the contrary, strongly recommend that for the future in this province a close season of two months be required, for during most of that time they are really unfit for food and ought not to be packed."

Supplement No. 3, Fishery Statements, Report of W. Wakeman, Commander Fishery Steamer, "La Canadienne," Quebec, p. 77.

Ibid.

"The run of lobsters is much smaller than formerly, the limit of 9 inches is being very closely measured; in fact complaints are made that the law is sometimes broken in this respect, and unless we have an overseer at each cannery, it will be difficult to carry out the law thoroughly. It seems to be the opinion of most of the lobster fishers, that a more proper time for the close season would be from the middle of July to the middle of August. There is no doubt that lobsters taken in September and October, are in better condition than those taken during the end of July and August. It might be well at the Magdalen Islands to try this change. The extension of time this season was not very generally availed of."

Supplement No. 2, Report on the Fisheries of Canada, Report of W. H. Rogers, Inspector of Fisheries for Nova Scotia, p. 25.

16th Annual
Rept. Dept. of
Marine and
Fisheries,
1883.

"There are nevertheless many evidences that the natural source of supply is being overtaxed, and I fear a few years more will bring to view unmistakable proof of an exhaustion which will be alarming. On those portions of the coast where factories have existed for any length of time, the lobsters are much smaller than formerly—a sure evidence that the locality is being over-fished; and such is the state of matters now on a very large extent of coast. If any change is to be made, I would recommend that a uniform close season be fixed from the 20th July to the end of August or 10th September, as during that period many lobsters are shedding their shells, while all are really unfit for food and ought not to be put on the market."

Supplement No. 3, same Report, Report of W. H. Venning, Inspector of Fisheries for New Brunswick, p. 71.

Ibid.

"The present close time extends from 20th August to the 20th April, a period of eight months. Soft shelled lobsters, those with eggs attached, and all less than 9 inches in length, are now forbidden to be killed. With all this protection, the fishery shows indisputable signs of exhaustion. Not only is the supply falling, but the average size has fallen below 9 inches. Had the law been rigidly enforced this season, every cannery in the province would have been closed."

*Supplement No. 2, Fisheries Department Report, Report of W. H. Rogers,
Inspector of Fisheries for Nova Scotia, p. 79.*

"There is some difference of opinion as to the proper close time for lobsters. It is quite certain that, during five or six weeks in mid-summer they are unfit for food, the time varying from two to three weeks, between the extreme east and west of the province. I am of the opinion that a uniform close time of six or seven weeks, from the 20th July to the end of August, or 25th July to 5th September, would be preferable to the present law. This would give those fishermen, on coasts obstructed with ice late in the spring, an opportunity to fish some six or seven weeks in the fall months, when the fish are perfectly good."

Annual
Rept. Dept. of
Fisheries,
1884.

Same Supplement, Report of A. C. Bertram, Fishery Officer for Cape Breton, p. 95.

"I respectfully submit that the close season for lobster fishing might, with very much advantage to those engaged in the business, and with no injury to the fishing itself, be extended to, at least, the 21st of August, and I venture to recommend that the 'close season' for the shores of Cape Breton be extended accordingly."

Appendix No. 3, Report of the Department of Fisheries. Annual Report of W. H. Rogers, Inspector of Fisheries for Nova Scotia, p. 86.

"The present close time gives pretty general satisfaction, and is well observed. It is not so easy to enforce the clauses prohibiting the catching of lobsters under 9 inches in length, and of female fish; still our officers have kept a close watch on the factories and fishermen. When it is shown that the present regulations are insufficient, more stringent methods will have to be adopted, for however unwelcome they may be to those now concerned, it will be to their advantage in the end."

Annual
Rept. Dept. of
Fisheries,
1885.

Appendix No. 5, Report of Comdr. W. Wakeham, Quebec, p. 176.

"I should advise dividing the coast into sections and licensing the grounds; already at the Magdalen Islands and in the bay, much confusion and a good deal of bad feeling exists among the fishermen, as the lines of traps in many places cross and interfere with each other, this can only be prevented by licensing the grounds."

Ibid.

Appendix No. 3, Report of W. H. Rogers, Inspector of Fisheries for Nova Scotia, p. 85.

"Lobsters have been plentiful on most of our coast but show unmistakable evidence of exhaustion in many places from over-fishing. More stringent regulations are much needed to preserve this fishery from sharing the same fate that has overtaken it in other countries. I would recommend a close time extending from 20th July to 10th September, and to be made uniform all around our coast, and that none be taken less than 10½ inches."

Annual
Rept. Dept. of
Fisheries,
1886.

Appendix No. 3, Report of A. C. Bertram, Fishery Officer for Cape Breton, p. 97.

"It is probable that this branch of fishery has attained about the limit of expansion, and henceforth care will have to be exercised, as far as practicable, that the amount of fishing will not exceed the possible limits of production. Experience has now proved this to be not only a profitable branch of the fishing industry, but that it is more uniformly reliable than most other coast fisheries, so long as the source of supply is not too heavily drawn upon."

Ibid.

Appendix No. 4, Report of W. H. Venning, Inspector of Fisheries for New Brunswick, p. 146.

Annual Rept.
Dept. of Fish-
eries, 1884.

"The returns still show an enormous catch of this shell-fish, the average size of which continues to diminish."

Appendix No. 5, Report of J. H. Duvar, Inspector of Fisheries for Prince Edward Island, pp. 175, 176 and 177.

Ibid.

"The lobster fishery has taken another year's step towards its early extinction. More factories have been in operation (with still more threatened for next year), many more traps have been set and greater exertions made, with the result of 172,409 fewer cans. There is now a total absence of large fish, while the great bulk of those canned barely reach the standard of 9 inches, thereby placing the fishery officers in the unpleasant dilemma of either being powerless or having to shut down every factory in the province, with it may be one or two exceptions.

"The circumstances of the fishery are changing year by year. It is now no longer a question of regulating a legitimate occupation, but of dealing with a ruined industry.

"The Inspector in previous reports has repeatedly drawn attention to the extreme desirability of having the lobster fishery brought within the operation of the Fishery Act, so that, under whatever name or form, packers could be assured of an area in which they could carry on their legitimate business without undue interference, and he has time and again brought forward verbal and written evidence to show that almost all the packers in this province were in favour of such a measure, and that without it nothing but confusion and over-fishing would ensue. While quite aware that no grant can be made nor any exclusive use of any portion of the sea be given, his reading of the clause in section 18, subsection 5 of the Act, that 'disputes between parties relative to position and usage of nets and other fishing apparatus shall be settled by the local Fishery Officer'—was that the local Fishery Officer had power to define the space required for the due use of fishing apparatus, viz.: traps, against undue interference by others, and his opinion (perhaps an erroneous one), was, and is, that such required space, as laid down by the Fishery Officer, would be sustained in the ordinary courts of law.

"In default of a present possibility of adjusting lines, it becomes a matter of consideration whether it is not within the Minister's own power, under section 2 of the existing Act, to require a considerable annual license fee from all persons running lobster factories. The cases of licensed fish-traps and lobster-traps would seem to be parallel. Such a license fee, if heavy enough, would have the effect of preventing the crowding in of irresponsible small packers, and if it had that effect, could not be objected to by the larger factory owners, and would have the further good result of turning the attention of adventurers, whose only resources are a dory or two, to fisheries less heavily weighted. Moreover, it would be the first step towards putting in practice the sound maxim that fishery protection should be self-supporting."

Appendix No. 6, Report of Commander W. Wakeham, Fishery Officer, Quebec, p. 197.

Ibid.

"On the mainland cannery are anxious to have the close season changed. They wish to have it during midsummer, so that they can continue fishing during the fall, when lobsters are firmer, fuller and in every way better. At Magdalen Islands, the majority of cannery are of the same opinion. Some few who have their factories on the west side of the Islands and who could not fish late in the fall owing to the

prevalence of westerly winds, might not benefit by the change, but even they are of opinion that the close season should be during midsummer. I believe that lobsters are in primer condition towards the fall."

Appendix No. 3, Report of W. H. Rogers, Inspector of Fisheries for Nova Scotia, p. 83.

"The present close season as set out in the new Order of Council of 17th December, 1887, will be very favourable to this fishery. The new regulation is a wise one, though I think the close season should end on the 31st October, thus giving three months, which appear ample." Annual Rept. Dept. of Fisheries, 1887.

Report of A. C. Bertram, Fishery Officer for Cape Breton, p. 97.

"There is a general impression that this fishery is being overdone to an extent that threatens its extinction at no distant date, and the depression in the present year's prices points in that direction. It may be said, however, that the greater quantity taken points to an opposite conclusion. But it should not be forgotten that lobster canning factories are multiplying year by year, as well as the number of boats and men engaged in the catching.

"Whilst it is evident that some restriction of the business is necessary in the public interest, hardship to any class of persons would possibly be avoided by adopting the following:—

"1st. A standard regulation of minimum size, below which it would be unlawful to kill lobsters, say 11 inches, and a strict supervision over all boats arriving at the factories to see that this regulation is faithfully obeyed; no sale to take place until the lot has been inspected.

"2nd. No factory to be permitted to go in operation except under a license from the Department, and no license to issue to factories situated within a given coast mileage from any other factory already licensed, precedence to be governed by priority of application. Some such method of restriction would preserve the lobster fishery in perpetuity, and avoid giving colouring to complaints on the ground of personal interest to any party. The shortening of the open season would enable the Department to fix upon such dates for opening and closing in each year as would be adapted to all localities irrespective of differences in early or late spring seasons."

Appendix No. 4, Report of W. H. Venning, Inspector of Fisheries for New Brunswick, p. 143.

"The returns show a most alarming decrease. In fresh fish the falling off has been 1,252 tons. In canned fish 2,031,253 pounds, nearly half the catch of last year. This decrease is caused entirely by scarcity of fish, caused by over-fishing in the past." Ibid.

Appendix No. 6, Report of W. Wakeham, commander Fisheries steamer "La Canadienne," p. 187.

"It is absolutely necessary that steps be taken to curtail this over-fishing, and this can only be done either by closing down altogether for a term of years, or by shortening the fishing season and increasing the gauge which should be no less than 10 or 10½ inches. At Magdalen Islands and elsewhere, lagoon fishing should be prohibited, as there is no question that the shoal warm waters of these lagoons are the natural breeding grounds of the lobster." Ibid.

Appendix No. 2, Report of W. H. Rogers, Inspector of Fisheries for Nova Scotia, p. 36.

"There is a small increase in the yield of this important item (lobsters), caused by limited time in which to take them, given by the law. They were very plentiful on most of the coasts and of a good size." Annual Rept. Dept. of Fisheries, 1888.

Appendix No. 3, Report of W. H. Venning, Inspector of Fisheries for New Brunswick, p. 97.

Annual Rept.
Dept. of Fish-
eries, 1888.

"This fishery (lobsters) has almost ceased to be a remunerative industry in New Brunswick. As I have pointed out for the last ten years in every report, this result was inevitable from the wasteful manner in which the business was pursued. When the average size of the fish had become so small that it took from five to six and a-half lobsters to fill a pound can, and when canners sought by increased production to make up for low prices in over-stocked markets, what other result could be expected? The following figures will show how rapid the decline has been in the last five years. The catch was:—

	Cans.	Tons.
" In 1885.....	5,236,253	3,111
1886.....	4,661,812	4,290
1887.....	2,630,559	3,650
1888.....	1,843,368	1,948

"In 1886 there were 168 factories in operation; in 1887 there were 123, and this year only 75 have operated, many of these not running full time for want of fish. The report of the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the decline and its causes, showed beyond doubt that over-fishing was the cause of all the trouble, and that sufficient protection had not been provided by the regulations. At that time fishing was allowed only from 1st April to 1st August, and all the facts collected showed that this did not save the fish from growing smaller and scarcer."

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

EXHAUSTION OF THE LOBSTER FISHERY.

In his annual report for 1887, Inspector Duvar writes: "Setting apart all local side issues, I may say that, along the whole 400 miles of island coast, lobster canning is completely exhausted."

ON THE INEXPEDIENCY OF MAKING DIFFERENT CLOSE SEASONS FOR NORTH AND SOUTH SIDES OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

The memorials addressed to the Department on this subject mainly emanate from West Point, Prince County, and Point Prim, Queen's County. This can, at best, be only regarded as the demand of fifteen factories out of thirty-five which are situated on the south side of the Island. The thing is not to be thought of for one moment, as any concession of this kind in a single instance would be sure to bring in shoals of similar applications from other quarters.

IT IS THE DUTY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO RAISE THE STANDARD OF THE LOBSTER TRADE IN FOREIGN MARKETS.

Owing to the inferior grade of goods prepared by some packers, the lobster business is in great danger of being seriously imperilled. Canadian packed lobster is at a very low ebb on English markets, so much so, that London green-grocers will have nothing to do with Prince Edward Island lobsters on account of their inferior quality. Some of the stock of 1886 is still unsold, owing to the poor quality.

PACKERS WILL BE RUINED.

No repressive regulation however beneficial it may be to the public at large, can be carried without hurting somebody. The lobster fisheries belong to the public, not to the packers. It is the Government's duty to preserve them, not only in the interest of the present generation, but in that of the future. The right of fishery in the open sea may belong to the public, but the Government is trustee for the public, and it is its duty to protect and preserve such a valuable industry against present as well as future contingencies.

It may be asserted without fear of contradiction, that most of the factories with 400 to 600 traps are run absolutely without capital. A rough shanty, a lobster dory (worth about \$8) for every 100 or 150 traps; some laths to make traps, and a few logs for firewood are all the implements required for a start. The "packer" then arranges with some speculative merchant or other to supply him with the balance of articles needed, such as tins, ropes, killocks, flour, pork, tea, &c. The catch is handed to the merchant, who in turn passes it to the exporter, and then squares accounts with the packer by endorsing his notes for such minimum amounts as will keep the concern going. Wages are generally in arrear; sometimes balances due to the hands are never paid. The merchant gets the profit, if any, and the packer makes little more than a bare subsistence. Under such circumstances it is manifest that the packer can feel very little interest in the kind of goods he puts on the market. To him, a can is a can, worth 6 or 8 cents additional; no matter whether it is trash. Such are some of the reasons which have given Prince Edward Island lobsters so bad a name on British markets. And it is precisely these small factories that have ruined the lobster fishery, and just such a class of packers who join any agitation that promises them longer fishing.

The shortening of the fishing season will act as a judicious check. Merchants will be chary of making advances to irresponsible parties, and it is probable that a good many of these small and destructive hand-to-mouth concerns will be wiped out to the ultimate benefit of the fishery, and the advantage of responsible packers.

It is unnecessary to say that the above remarks do not apply to canneries which are worked with due capital. The owners of these factories are quite alive to the necessity of stringent protective measures.

"THE POOR FISHERMEN WILL BE RUINED."

This popular cry has no reason to be. Closing the lobster fishery on the 15th July will not injuriously affect the fishermen. Mackerel fishing begins on the 10th or 15th July, and affords abundant employment for all hands. Cod fishing goes on all summer until late in the fall. There is every indication that a profitable fall herring fishery will soon be established on the Island shores. Agricultural labour is in so great a demand that no man need go unemployed.

Females working in lobster factories will take their place in domestic and farm labour where a still greater demand exists for their services.

To the objection that lobster fishermen cannot engage in sea-fishing, because they do not possess the necessary gear, it may be answered that, a supply of hooks, lines and trawls is not expensive, and that merchants who now make advances to lobster fishers would only be too glad to furnish them with sea-fishing material on the same terms.

Lobster factories can be used for other purposes than that of canning lobsters. Large quantities of mackerel are annually so canned. In 1886, 679,584 tins of mackerel were put up in Prince Edward Island. Boneless cod can be prepared, and herring smoked. Salmon, eels, trout, oysters, clams, butcher's meat, game, corn, tomatoes, fruits and berries of all kinds can be preserved in cans, so that the factories need not stand idle, or close their doors, if they do not choose to do so. The stages, wharves, &c., can be made available for sea-fishing, while the buildings and outfit stand ready for the curing and packing of sea-fish. The lobster traps, placed under proper cover, suffer no deterioration and can keep for a long time.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

THE LOBSTER FISHERY FOR 1887.

Extracts from Reports of Fishery Overseers in New Brunswick.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY.

Overseer Hickson :—The lobster fishery continues to grow worse with every season. Each succeeding year finds the fish scarcer and the average size smaller.

Overseer Hache :—The catch of lobsters was smaller than last year.

Overseer Cormier :—Lobsters continue to grow scarcer and smaller. But one factory was in operation in the district and 6½ lobsters were required to fill a can.

Note.—Mr. Cormier is strongly of opinion that fishing should be allowed only from 15th August to 1st October in each year.

Overseer Poirier :—Lobster fishing here was a failure. The only way of saving this fishery that I can suggest, is either to stop fishing for three years or to make the traps in such a way that small lobsters will not be taken. Officers should be authorized to inspect all traps before they are put out and see that the slats are wide enough apart to allow the small fish to escape.

Overseer Ache :—Lobsters grow scarcer and smaller every year.

Overseer Boyd :—A decreased catch of lobsters. These continue to grow scarcer and smaller, and without protection the business will soon cease from want of fish.

Overseer Sewell :—The decrease in lobsters shows that the business has collapsed much sooner than was expected. Last year three factories were in operation; this year two of them closed up, and the remaining one, having all the fish to itself, put up but 16,760 cans—less than was packed last year by 33,536 cans.

Overseer Mauzeroll :—Lobster fishery was a failure. Three lobster factories were closed for want of fish, and the only one that continued to operate did not pay working expenses. The canning business has ceased to be a paying industry on this part of the coast.

RESTIGOUCHE COUNTY.

Overseer McPherson :—The lobster fishery is steadily decreasing, as well in the average size of the fish as in the numbers taken.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY.

Overseer Stymast :—The lobster factories closed for want of fish long before the season ended.

Overseer Robichaud :—Only two lobster factories started this season. These soon closed and took their traps on shore for want of fish.

KENT COUNTY.

Overseer Guimon :—Lobsters are getting scarcer and smaller. The catch falls below that of last year by 100,000 pounds.

Overseer Hannah :—Lobsters were scarce; the quantity canned falls much below that of last year, and some of the factories closed for want of fish before the end of the season.

Overseer Girouard :—About the same quantity was canned as previous year.

Overseer Cormier :—Lobsters continue scarce and small and the quantity canned was less than last year.

WESTMORELAND AND ALBERT COUNTIES.

Overseer Deacon :—There were nineteen lobster factories in operation this year; nine of the old factories were closed during the whole season, but five new ones were operated. The returns show a decrease in the catch of 93,760 pounds. Each year shows a reduced catch notwithstanding the extra labor and apparatus employed.

ST. JOHN COUNTY.

Overseer O'Brien:—The great bulk of lobsters caught were sent alive to the United States' markets.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY.

Overseer Campbell:—The lobster catch was somewhat larger than last year, but smaller compared with what it formerly was in this district. The American legal size being $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and ours but 9 inches, has the effect of depleting our waters and protecting theirs. To give our lobsters an equal chance for protection, our standard should not be less than that across the border.

Overseer Ash:—Lobsters were not so plentiful, but a fair catch was made and sent fresh to Eastport.

SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL REPORTS OF INSPECTORS OF FISHERIES FOR 1891.

LOBSTER FISHERY.

Inspector Hackett:—Lobster fishing most successful last season all around coast. At beginning of season lobsters were of good size and condition for packing, but about 15th July they began to run small and became inferior in quality. Ice left coast early, and some lobsters were landed at Miminigash on the 29th April. Most factories began packing about 10th May; this is considered an early start inside the gulf. Prospect of good season and high prices induced people to make large preparations and additions to plant. There were 142 factories operated this season, as against 98 in 1890. About 138,000 traps were used; an increase of 42,000 over last year. There were 3,670,414 lbs. canned, as against 2,416,794 lbs. in 1890. Each trap's produce was equal to about $26\frac{1}{2}$ one pound cans, or $1\frac{1}{4}$ one pound cans more per trap than in 1890. This increase is due to the 15 days extension, which was taken advantage of by about 80 packers on the south side. Had all factories closed on 15th July, as in 1890, the production per trap would have been less than in 1890, showing that the fishery, while improving under shortened season and better protection, cannot stand the enormous drain made upon it by use of so many traps. Large preparations are now being made for next season; at least 50 more factories will operate in 1892 than in 1891, thus bringing the number of factories up to 200, equal to about 200,000 traps. As six lobsters generally fill one can, about 22,000,000 were killed last season to make up the pack. With increased appliances to be used in 1892, and traps allowed to capture the same number of lobsters as in 1891, at least 300,000,000 lobsters will be required to supply canneries in 1892.

The fecundity of lobsters is amazing, each female being said to produce from twelve to twenty thousand eggs each season, thus hatching tens of millions of young lobsters around our shores. One would think it impossible to exhaust this fishery, but experience has proved the contrary. As the fishery in the Gulf was much depleted by over-fishing a few years ago, great care will be required in future to prevent its going back into same condition. The new regulations will bring this fishery more directly under the control of the department's officers.

Inspector Hockin:—The estimated value of the lobster catch in my division is 533,647. The catch on the Atlantic coast exceeds that of last year by about 6 per cent, while on the Straits of Northumberland, the increase was 30 per cent; this is partly due to the extension of time from July 15th to August 1st; the effect of which was to lengthen the season by about 25 per cent, but it does not necessarily contribute to the increase of the catch for this year. At the beginning of the season, lobsters were large and abundant, but later on the catch was small not paying larger factories. The largest packers did not operate after the 15th July; many who did expressed regret at the extension of time, as it does not pay large establishments. As soon as European buyers heard of the extension of time, they took alarm, expecting that larger quantities would be placed on the markets. Prices dropped and did not since regain their former point. The excellent prices realized, and perhaps

the increase of catch lately, along Northumberland Straits, has led to the erection of new factories, of which there will be more in 1892 than in 1891. Keen competition will result, and regulations affecting the size and berried lobsters will be endangered. Regulations cannot be enforced without large outlay, many factories being in out-of-the-way places, and on approach of cutters all evidence of violations are secreted until cutter is out of sight again. Until factories are brought under the license system, it will be impossible to strictly enforce the regulations. Now is the time when the department, in the public interest, for the purpose of preserving this fishery, should prohibit fishing without a license. It is always serious to interfere with the business of a country, unless public interests are injured, and the returns from this fishery for the past year, as well as for previous years, show that where the close season has been observed, the fishery is not declining. This information coming from many sources, dispels the suspicions, which, in the interests of those fearing restrictive legislation, are circulated. Until convinced of decline of fishery, do not consider it judicious to bring into operation further restrictive enactments, especially as the result of last year's fishing puts strong arguments in the mouths of those claiming such to be necessary. The non-observance of the close time is the most important of violations to be grappled with. It is claimed that the necessity for restrictive legislation lies in the fact that the history of this fishery in countries where indiscriminate fishing is allowed has been one of rapid extinction, and also that fish taken in the fall of the year are watery and lack the flavour of those caught in the spring, and that they contain an alkali which first blackens the cans and then the fish. Also that the placing of such fish on the markets is injurious to the business, as consumers obtaining inferior fish discredit all canned lobsters. It is also claimed, that in fall, three lobsters will not equal two when left till following spring. Nearly all these arguments are combated by fishermen who naturally endeavour to find excuses to support themselves in violating the law; but some believe them and get up a sympathy with neighbours, thus making it difficult to enforce the law.

All these points have some important bearing on legislation, and the department should have more solid basis than mere rumour and assertions—they should be made subjects of accurate official investigation; a test should be made of size—weight and quality at various seasons, and a careful analysis in spring and fall.

A paper giving the history of lobster fishery in other countries, supported by statistics, together with the natural history of fish, drawn up and printed for distribution, would help to educate those interested in the industry. The above mentioned tests could be included. The free circulation of such a paper among fishing settlements would take away the moral support which violators have in evading the law.

Inspector Wakeham.—The lobster fishery in the Province of Quebec shows an increased yield of 344,773 lbs. over that of 1890. Of this quantity 153,324 lbs. are due to the opening of new canneries at Anticosti Island. There was a decided improvement all over this division, lobsters being not only more abundant but of larger size. On the mainland fishing began about the 1st of May; at Magdalen Islands about the 20th of May, it being impossible to set traps while the herring fishing was going on. Besides the delay of beginning, canneries at Magdalen were badly handicapped by the epidemic of la grippe, which struck the island about the 1st June. The sickness being so sudden and so general, a good deal of meat ready to can was lost, and much that was canned was of an inferior quality, having stood too long and being put up by unskilled workmen. Though an extension to 1st August was granted, it did not make up for the loss caused by sickness, which occurred during the height of the season. It was impossible for fishermen to keep on lobster fishing, as mackerel struck in the middle of July. At Anticosti this fishery opened about the 26th May. New canneries had been established; those on the east end and south shore did well as these are new grounds, and the run of lobsters was large.

Inspector Pratt.—Last season's catch in the County of Charlotte division was excellent—this, coupled with the fact that the demand and prices were good, caused the people engaged in this branch of the fisheries to feel in good spirits. The lowering of the legal size to nine inches tended to increase the catch. As high as 14 cents

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each was paid by buyers desirous of shipping lobsters fresh to markets. The increasing importance of this fishery requires that the regulations which control it be enforced as strictly as possible. Fishermen of this district take quite an active interest in having the fishery protected. Formerly they used to compete with each other in efforts to destroy it as quickly as possible.

Inspector Chapman.—Marked increase in the pack of this district, aggregating nearly 1,000,000 cans, and being nearly double that of 1890. There is some danger of over-fishing along the coast, as many new factories are going up this fall. No extension of time should be granted.

APPENDIX E.

NEWFOUNDLAND LOBSTER REGULATIONS.

The following rules and regulations governing the lobster fishery of our sister colony will be found of interest :—

LOBSTER INDUSTRY.

1. No owner or manager shall engage in the business of canning lobsters in the Island of Newfoundland without having previously taken out a license.
2. The Receiver-General or any justice, sub-collector or preventive officer shall, on application, issue such licenses, and shall make a return to the Fisheries Commission of all licenses issued within three months after granting the same.
3. There shall be no fee charged for said licenses.
4. The Fisheries Commission shall supply all those authorized to issue licenses with a sufficient number of blank forms of license and of printed copies of all rules and regulations relating to the lobster industry.
5. The said license shall be in the following form, viz. :—

NEWFOUNDLAND : }
District. }

By virtue of the power vested in me under the rules and regulations respecting the lobster industry, made under and by virtue of section 16 of an Act passed in the fifty-second year of the reign of Her present Majesty, entitled "An Act to provide for the formation of a Fisheries Commission and for other purposes," I

of do hereby license to engage in the business of lobster canning at for a period of one year from the date hereof, subject to the said rules and regulations, a copy of which is hereto attached.

Given under my hand at , in the district of , this day of , A.D. 18 .

6. The owner or manager of any lobster canning establishment convicted before a justice of a breach of rule and regulation numbered 1 shall be subject to a penalty not exceeding four hundred dollars, and in addition thereto such justice may declare all the lobster gear of such owner or manager forfeited and order the same to be sold at public auction.

7. No person within this colony shall spear, kill, take, catch, trap, buy or sell any lobster for the purpose of being canned from the 5th day of August until the 5th day of September in each year under a penalty not exceeding five dollars for each lobster so taken.

8. Any fisherman may capture lobsters of any length at any time for food for himself and his family.

9. It shall be the duty of justices, sub-collectors, fish wardens, preventive officers and constables to see to and aid in the carrying out of the provisions of these rules and regulations, and the manager or proprietor of any canning establishment shall, on demand, produce his license to any such justice, fish warden, sub-collector, preventive officer or constable, and upon refusing to do so or otherwise obstructing any such officer in the discharge of his duty shall be subject to a penalty not exceeding four hundred dollars.

10. On the requisition of any person authorized or employed by the Fisheries Commission to hatch lobsters, the manager or owner of any lobster canning establishment shall, as far as possible and with due care, take from and keep, in such manner as may be prescribed by the Fisheries Commission, all eggs attached to

lobsters brought to said establishment, and deliver the same to a person authorized by the Fisheries Commission, under a penalty not exceeding five dollars for each refusal.

11. Any person convicted before any justice of violation of these rules and regulations may, by order of such justice, have his license forfeited and be declared incompetent of holding a license for the canning of lobsters for any period not exceeding one year thereafter.

12. All penalties and proceeds of sales of forfeited lobster gear, imposed and collected under and by virtue of the foregoing rules and regulations, shall be distributed as follows, viz.: one-half to the person prosecuting the offender to conviction, and the residue to the Receiver-General for the use of the colony.

13. Any person may secure at any time or by any means any lobster or lobsters for scientific or procreative purposes, anything in these rules and regulations contained to the contrary notwithstanding.